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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

TANG, KUO LIANG J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2122

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,695

Applicant(s)

HALSTEAD ET AL.

Examiner

Kuo-Liang J Tang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) *
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/8/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The priority date for this application is 11/01/1999.

Claims 1-22 are pending and have been examined.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/8/2004 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see pages 2-6, filed 9/8/2004 with respect to Claims 1-22 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of Claims 1-22 has been withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-10, 12-15 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLennan in view of Owens.

Claims 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLennan in view Owens, further in view of Li.

Claims 7-8 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLennan in view of Owens, further in view of Hostetter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3-6, 9-10, 12-15 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLennan, Michael J., "Object-oriented Programming with [incr Tcl] Building Mega-Widgets with [incr Tk]" (Art of Record (AU), hereinafter McLennan) in view of Owens et al., US Patent No. US 6,047,284 (hereinafter Owens).

As Per Claim 1, McLennan discloses a method of processing data comprising:

"defining an object (E.g. see page 86, Figure 2-11 Fileview mega-widget and associated text) with an option data structure (E.g. see page 87, lines 24-30, "usual" option-handling code for scrobars) which supports references to option values (E.g. see page 87, lines 25-26, options -background, -troughcolor) without preallocation of memory space for the full option values;" (E.g. see page 87, line 27, options -background, -troughcolor, -orient and -command ...) and

"notifying objects of a change in an option value through a change handler identified by an option binding, the option binding being located by first searching a

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mapping data structure for a previously computed mapping to the option binding and, if no mapping was previously computed, by then computing the mapping to the option binding and storing the mapping in the mapping data structure.” (E.g. see page 81, Figure 2-8 and associated text, e.g. page 81, lines 1-3).

McLennan does not explicitly disclose without preallocation of memory for full option values. However, Owens in an analogous art teaches “without preallocation of memory for full option values”. (E.g. see col. 3:1-17, which states “...allocating storage space for the object without storage space for an array element if the instantiation request does not specify an initial value for any of the data members of the array element ...”). Therefore, it would have been obvious to incorporate the teaching of Owens into the teaching of McLennan to include without preallocation of memory for full option values. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated so that the allocation of storage for array elements may be deferred until necessary.

As Per Claim 3, the rejection of claims 1 is incorporated respectively and further McLennan discloses:

-the option binding is a most specific option binding given a class and a base option binding. (E.g. see page 79, Figure 2-6 itk_option and associated text).

As Per Claim 4, the rejection of claims 1 is incorporated and further McLennan discloses:

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“change handler code for one option is defined in different classes within a class inheritance hierarchy and the change handler code from each class is executed when the option value changes.” (E.g. see page 81, Figure 2-8 and associated text, e.g. page 81, lines 4-13).

As Per Claim 5, the rejection of claims 1 is incorporated and further McLennan discloses:

“an option data structure includes a default value (E.g. see page 83, lines 12-16), the method further comprising, in a get operation to an instance of the class, if an option value which applies to the instance has been set, getting the set option value and, if a value which applies has not been set, getting the default value for the class.” (E.g. see page 79, lines 3-9).

As Per Claim 6, the rejection of claims 1 is incorporated and further McLennan discloses:

“the option data structure comprises a linked list of option items having option values.” (E.g. see page 79, Figure 2-6 itk_option and associated text).

As Per Claim 9, the rejection of claims 1 is incorporated respectively and further McLennan discloses:

“the class which supports the option data structure includes defined fields to support values in preallocated memory space.” (Again, see as noted above of Claim 1).

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Claim 10 is the system claim corresponding to the method claim 1 and is rejected under the same reason set forth in connection of the rejection of claim 1.

As Per Claims 12-15 and 18, the rejection of claim 10 are incorporated and are rejected under the same reason set forth in connection of the rejection of claims 3-6 and 9.

Claim 19 is the system claim corresponding to the method claim 1 and is rejected under the same reason set forth in connection of the rejection of claim 1.

Claim 20 is the computer-readable medium claim corresponding to the method claim 1 and is rejected under the same reason set forth in connection of the rejection of claim 1.

As Per Claim 21, the rejection of claims 20 is incorporated and is rejected under the same reason set forth in connection of the rejection of claim 6.

Claim 22 is the computer data signal claim corresponding to the method claim 1 and is rejected under the same reason set forth in connection of the rejection of claim 1.

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6. Claims 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLennan in view Owens, further in view of Li et al. (US Patent No. 5,943,496) hereafter Li.

As Per Claim 2, the rejection of claims 1 is incorporated and further the combination of McLennan and Owens does not explicitly disclose the mapping data structure is a hash table. However, Li teaches the mapping data structure is a hash table.(see Column 9, Lines 20-25, "The VMX first registers the component object class name and the component object instance specification in a hash table referred to herein as the object/name table (step 720). The object/name table is for enabling the VMX to identify the component object instance associated with a particular instance name.""). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Li into the system of McLennan and Owens, to have the mapping data structure be a hash table. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use the object/name hash table for enabling the VMX to identify the component object instance associated with a particular instance name by using hash table.

As Per Claim 11, the rejection of claims 1 is incorporated and is rejected under the same reason set forth in connection of the rejection of claim 2.

7. Claims 7-8 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLennan in view of Owens, further in view of Hostetter et al., "Curl: A Gentle

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Slope Language for the Web," World Wide Web Journal, Spring, 1997 (hereinafter Hostetter).

As Per Claim 7, the rejection of claims 1 is incorporated and further the combination of McLennan and Owens does not explicitly disclose a nonlocal option value applies to other objects in a nonlocal option hierarchy. However, Hostetter teaches a nonlocal option value applies to other objects in a nonlocal option hierarchy. ((see Section3, Page 4, Lines 1-2, "The screen shot above reflects the fact the user has selected something besides the default color (red) and quantity (0)."). Color is a nonlocal option because all text in a given document is usually the same color. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Hostetter into the system of McLennan and Owens, to comprise a nonlocal option value applies to other objects in a nonlocal option hierarchy. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to implement properties in a dynamically bound environment using a deep binding mechanism.

As Per Claim 8, the rejection of claims 7 is incorporated and further the combination of McLennan and Owens does not explicitly disclose the nonlocal option hierarchy is a graphical hierarchy. However, Hostetter teaches the nonlocal option hierarchy is a graphical hierarchy. (see Section3, Page 4, Lines 1-2, "The screen shot above reflects the fact the user has selected something besides the default color (red) and quantity (0).") and (see Section4.3, Page 9, Lines 34-35, "text. Properties control the color, size and font family as well as indicating whether the text should be bold or

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italic.”). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Hostetter into the system of McLennan and Owens, to comprise the nonlocal option hierarchy is a graphical hierarchy. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated represent to a graphic image as a hierarchical tree of Graphic objects (Leaves of the tree are primitive Graphic objects which know how to draw themselves, usually after looking up the values of various properties).

As Per Claims 16-17, the rejection of claim 10 is incorporated and are rejected under the same reason set forth in connection of the rejection of claims 7-8.

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Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuo-Liang J Tang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3705. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM - 7:00PM (Monday – Thursday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kuo-Liang J. Tang

Software Engineer Patent Examiner

Chameli C. Das
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PRIMARY EXAMINER
11/26/04